[*Translation*]

'Urjagram' Yojana

*366. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed under 'Urjagram Yojana during this last year, State-wise;

(b) the extent to which these targets have been achieved;

(c) whether the Government have included the Darbhanga district of Bihar under this Yojana; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The Annual Plan for 1990–91 envisaged 25 urjagram projects, to be taken up in various States. No State-wise target was fixed. The projects are sanctioned based on proposals initiated by the State nodal agencies. During 1990–91, 34 urjagram projects were sanctioned.

(b) Nineteen projects were completed during the year. This is out of the total number of projects under execution, including previous sanctions.

(c) and (d). No proposal has so far been received for an urjagram project in Darbhanga district.

Electrification of Rural Areas

*367. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON - CONVENTIOANL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the norms laid down for electrifying the villages in the country;

(b) whether electrification undertaken by the State Governments is according to these norms;

(c) whether any suggestion has been received by the Union Government to make some amendments in these norms;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (e). While targets for electrification of villages are fixed each year by the Planning Commission taking into the availability of funds and other resources, rural electrification activities in the State(s) are formulated and executed by the respective State Electricity Board(s)/Electricity Department(s) according to the priorities fixed by them and no norms, as such, have been fixed by the Central Government for electrifying the villages in the country. No suggestions have been received by Government for amendment to the norms for Rural Electrification Programmes being undertaken by State Electricity Boards/State Government Departments.

[*English*]

Supply of Newsprint by Russia

3716. SHRI R. SURENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Russia has agreed to supply newsprint to India against the supply of Indian goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the

reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the quantum of the newsprint proposed to be exported to India by Russia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The Trade Protocol signed between Government of India and the Government of Russian Federation on 22nd February, 1992 provides for import of 20,000 tonnes of newsprint from Russia against supply of Indian goods. Besides the Protocol permits transactions by way of counter-trade barter, payments in freely convertible currency or any other internationally recognised form of business cooperation.

[*Translation*]

Sick Small Scale Industries

3717. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of small scale industries in the country and the number of sick industries out of them; and

(b) the total amount involved in these sick industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as at the end of March, 1990 (the latest date for which such information has been complied) out of a total number of 27,91,358 borrowing units in the Small Scale Sector enjoying bank credit, 2,18,828 units were identified by banks as sick with outstanding bank credit of Rs. 2426.94 crores.

Supply of Raw Materials to Handloom Weavers

3718. SHRI VIIAS MUTTEMWAR:
DR. ASIM BALA:
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the handloom weavers are facing acute hardships due to increase in prices of yarn, dyes-chemicals and other raw materials;

(b) the details of memorandum submitted by the weavers to the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that cotton yarn is not supplied to them in time at subsidised rate and they have to pay more price than the fixed price for cotton yarn due to shortage of hank yarn in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide raw materials to the weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The recent increase in prices of raw material used in the handloom sector had rendered the handloom cloth costlier thereby affecting its marketability leading to temporary under employment among the weavers.

(b) A number of representations have been received from the associations of handloom cloth manufacturers and Members of Parliament demanding supply of yarn to handloom weavers at stable prices.

(c) While the problem has been one of its prices, there is no shortage in the availability of cotton hank yarn in the country.